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Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 27 through page 7, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment, the thrombin peptide derivative comprises a serine esterase conserved sequence and a polypeptide having a more specific thrombin amino acid sequence Arg-Gly-Asp-Ala (SEQ ID NO: 3). One example of a thrombin peptide derivative of this type comprises Arg-Gly-Asp-Ala-Cys-X₁-Gly-Asp-Ser-Gly-Gly-Pro-X₂-Val (SEQ ID NO: 4). X₁ and X₂ are as defined above. When the thrombin peptide derivative comprises SEQ ID NO: 4, it preferably has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 (~~Ala-Gly-Tyr-Lys-Pro-Asp-Glu-Gly-Lys-Arg-Gly-Asp-Ala-Cys-Glu-Gly-Asp-Ser-Gly-Gly-Pro-Phe-Val~~) (~~Ala-Gly-Tyr-Lys-Pro-Asp-Glu-Gly-Lys-Arg-Gly-Asp-Ala-Cys-Glu-Gly-Asp-Ser-Gly-Gly-Pro-Phe-Val~~) or an *N*-terminal truncated fragment thereof, provided that zero, one, two or three amino acids at positions 1-9 in the thrombin peptide derivative differ from the amino acid at the corresponding position of SEQ ID NO: 5. Preferably, the amino acids in the thrombin peptide derivative which differ from the corresponding amino acid in SEQ ID NO: 5 are conservative substitutions, and are more preferably highly conservative substitutions. An "*N*-terminal truncated fragment" refers to a fragment remaining after removing an amino acid or block of amino acids from the *N*-terminus, preferably a block of no more than six amino acids, more preferably a block of no more than three amino acids.